

REMARKS

Introductory Remarks

Claim 36 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 37-53 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Accordingly, claims 37-47 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 37, 43, and 48 are independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. The table below shows where exemplary support for claim amendments exists in the specification.

| Claims | Exemplary Support |
|---------------------------|--|
| 37, 43 | Page 5, line 14 – Page 6, line 3; Page 13, lines 9-20; Page 14, lines 9-14 |
| 38, 44 | Page 13, lines 9-20 |
| 39, 40, 41, 45, 46, 47 | Page 5, line 14 – 17 |
| 42 | Page 14, lines 9-14 |
| 48 | Page 5, line 14 – Page 6, line 3; Page 3, lines 17-23 Page 5, lines 6-12 |
| 49, 50 | Page 9, lines 12-22 |
| 51-53 | Page 5, line 14 – Page 6, line 3 |

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as not properly reciting a Markush group. Claim 36 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 36.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by ULTRAFOAM “Open-Cell Silicon Carbide Foam” data (“Ultrafoam”). Claim 36 has been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 36.

To the extent that this reference would be applied to claims 37-47, Applicant submits that this reference fails to provide, among other things, impregnation with a polymer or petroleum pitch as required by claims 37 and 43, respectively. With respect to claims 48-53, Applicant submits that this reference fails to provide, among other things, semi-crystalline porous coal-based structure having a metallic carbide reaction bonded to the porous coal-base structure where the relative amount of reaction bonded carbide to the semi-crystalline porous coal-based structure is an amount ranging from about 1 to about 10% by volume.

Extension of Time

Applicants believe that no extensions of time are required at this time. If extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Applicants believe that no further fees for net addition of claims are required at this time. Any fees required for extensions of time and any fees for the net addition of claims are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 503310.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip D. Lane
Reg. No. 41,140

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Philip D. Lane
P.O. Box 79318
Charlotte, NC 28271-7063
Tel: 704-301-5007
Fax: 704-843-2318